

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

August 13, 2003

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF NASHVILLE GAS
COMPANY, A DIVISION OF PIEDMONT
NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC., FOR AN
ADJUSTMENT OF ITS RATES AND
CHARGES, THE APPROVAL OF REVISED
TARIFFS AND THE APPROVAL OF REVISED
SERVICE REGULATIONS

DOCKET NO.
03-00313

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE

This docket came before the Hearing Officer for consideration of the *Petition to Intervene* ("Petition") filed by Associated Valley Industries, Inc. ("AVI") on August 1, 2003. In the *Petition*, AVI states that it is a coalition of industrial users of natural gas, including some customers of Nashville Gas Company. AVI contends that its interests "may be determined by the outcome of this proceeding" by changing gas rates to be charged to customers of Nashville Gas and that its intervention "will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings."

Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-310(a) sets forth the following criteria for granting petitions to intervene:

(a) The administrative judge or hearing officer shall grant one (1) or more petitions for intervention if:

(1) The petition is submitted in writing to the administrative judge or hearing officer, with copies mailed to all parties named in the notice of the hearing, at least seven (7) days before the hearing;

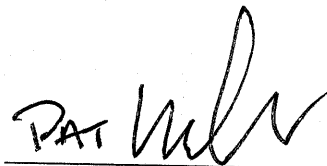
(2) The petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner's legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other legal interest may be determined in the proceeding or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of the law; and

(3) The administrative judge or hearing officer determines that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings shall not be impaired by allowing the intervention.

The Hearing Officer finds that the *Petition* complies with the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-310(a). The *Petition* is timely filed and substantiates that AVI's legal interests may be affected by this docket. AVI has not requested any relief that would impair the interests of justice or the orderly and prompt conduct of this docket. Moreover, no objections to the *Petition* have been filed. Therefore, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-310(a), the *Petition* should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

Associated Valley Industries, Inc. is granted leave to intervene in this docket and may participate in this proceeding as permitted by the modified procedural schedule and receive copies of any notices, orders or other documents filed herein.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PAT Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Pat Miller, Director
as Hearing Officer